AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

FOREIGN ILLITERATES COMMON PREY IN U. S.

Aliens Return to Their Native Land on Call.

POSITION OF UNIONS UPHELD

Government Report Shatters Claim of Those Who Oppose Immigration Restriction and Literacy Test Urged by A. F. of L.

Washington, Aug. 21.—The federal bureau of naturalization, department of labor, makes public some interesting information in a report on its work of 'making citizens out of the raw material of the world's intelligence.'

The figures refute claims made by opponents of immigration restriction and a literacy test, urged by the American Federation of Labor. These opponents have pictured immigrants from certain sections of Europe as imbued with the lofty principle of coming to America to establish a home and assist in the work of developing freedom and democracy for all men.

These oratorical effusions are now supported by the bureau's cold declaration that foreign illiterates maintain their allegiance to European potentates and that these illiterates are an easy prey to exploiters.

It is stated that in 1910 there were nearly 14,000,000 foreigners in this country, that of this number 9,000,000 were not citizens, and that the foreign body has been increased nearly 1,000,000 annually since that time.

The report shows that during the past three years upward of 15,000 foreigners have been refused citizenship papers and that half of these were declared to be either morally or mentally unfit.

The bureau makes this comment on the large number of non-citizens in this country:

"By far the larger portion of the foreign residents of this country have retained their allegiance to the sovereigns of their birth. Consuls, reports in the public press have shown many of these are ready to respond to the behest of these sovereignties. It is well known that large numbers returned immediately on the outbreak of the country of their nativity, leaving the ties, personal, family, industrial, and others which have grown up in this country, for the stronger call of allegiance to the foreign sovereigns. This was the case in 1870 in the great war of Europe, in the lesser wars among the Balkan states.

The following statement by the bureau is an unqualified indorsement of the literacy test urged by organized labor in its advocacy of a literacy test for immigrants:

"Among the approximately 14,000,000 foreign alien residents, 1,650,361 are classed as illiterate. These illiterates are the natural prey of the designing and scheming foreigners and natives, as well, at every turn, to compel them to pay tribute, both in cash and blood, for every service both real and imagined, and for the gratification of their desires, however unscrupulous or unnatural."

RAILROADS NOT BLAMELESS.

New York, Aug. 21.—The "poor, misunderstood railroad" proposition will receive little sympathy from S. S. Fontaine, a stock market expert, who writes an article in Today's Mail, New York World:

"Railroad reform has made some progress, but it has not yet reached a point where it can be said that the management of these companies is what it could be desired or expected. Even their more friendly critics are not prone to excuse them during the long period of depression from which every industry and every enterprise in the country has suffered to a greater or less degree, they have, as a whole, practiced a rigid and unscientific economizing to which other classes of business have resorted with such wholesome results that their refreshments have been at the cost of efficiency, and there has been no sincere effort to abolish special privileges, which are a constant source of waste, and to root out the graft system that has attached itself to practically every trunk line in the country through the medium of a policy commonly owned by the operating or administrative officials."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Aug. 21. — According to reports issued by the bureau of statement of labor, bureau of immigration, but 28,489 immigrants came to this country during June, the number of arrivals during May was 32,362; April, 51,788; March, 24,125.

Twenty-four countries contributed the largest number of immigrants, 2,886; Ireland was second with 1,744; Greece, 1,671; Portugal, 834; Japan, 721, and Norway, 548.

In the skilled trades, clerks and accountants led with 674. Carpenters there were with 474; machinists, 383; miners, 225; tailors, 172; masons, 162; seamstresses, 149.

Of the unskilled, there were 4,393 listed as laborers, 2,256 as servants, and 1,419 as farm laborers.

New York received the largest proportion of these immigrants, 9,972, followed by Pennsylvania, with 2,196, followed by California with 1,843; Michigan, 1,652; Pennsylvania, 1,305 and Washington, 1,074.

WHAT "LABOR" INCLUDES.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—The labor question is as big as broad, as deep, as extensive as human activity," said Secretary of War Lindley M. Wilbur, in this city. "If you take as your definition of labor any physical or mental activity, and consider for the moment that you have some conception of the breadth of the movement which takes into consideration and seeks to handle properly all of these activities. The most important question, the most difficult question growing out of the creation of the new federal department of labor, is that from now on labor have a voice in the councils of our Nation."

DETECTIVES REGULATED.

Sacramento, Cal., Aug. 21.—The state law regulating private detectives is now in force, and hereafter the gum-shoe, beer-hole, tin-star mouth, employed by big private agencies will be barred from acting under a license issued by the title board of prison directors. It is estimated that fifty per cent of Hawkshaws will have trouble securing licenses.

DEMAND PREVAILING RATE.

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 21.—Local machinists have completed to the department of labor at Ontario that certain manufacturers of war munitions are paying less than the prevailing rates.

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN NEW RULE IN ILLINOIS

Sex Distinction Abolished in State Institutions.

UNIONISM MAKES NEW RECORD

Ancient Theory of Women's Inferiority Discarded By Only State in Which Hospital Workers Are Organized.

Chicago, Aug. 21.—Illinois has rejected the ancient doctrine that when a woman does work equal with man she is not entitled to equal pay.

The state board of administration, controlling 21 state charitable institutions and 2,500 employes, has accepted the theory of equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, as pertinently urged by the trade union movement, and starting Sept. 1 the new rule will become effective.

This decision was made at a meeting of the board, which was attended by trade union representatives, including officials of the Hospital Nurses and Attendants' union, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. Illinois has the distinction of being the only state in which these workers are organized, and the board's ruling is another triumph for trade union-ism's power to overthrow century-old dogma.

President Kern of the state board of administration explains the order as follows:

"The minimum wages for men and women in all the state institutions to be the same for the same class of work.

"All employes to be given one day off per week, in addition to the two weeks' vacation allowed under the old system they had the two weeks' vacation, but worked seven days a week.

"A promotional wage scale whereby all employes hereafter appointed receive higher wages as their term of service lengthens.

"The change from night to day service to be made hereafter each week instead of monthly.

"There is no reason," said President Kern, "why a nurse in these state institutions should receive as high wages as the men attendants for the same class of work. It should have been recognized long ago. We believe that we are establishing the right standard this time and that it will be found to increase efficiency in all the institutions.

"We are working out the promotional wage scale, which we presume to be another step in the right direction. Instead of leaving the question of wages to the superintendents we believe this plan will work much better. It will be something for them to have an incentive, for the longer they work, provided they are faithful and efficient, the higher will be their wages."

"A SACRIFICE TO GREED."

Madison, Wis., Aug. 21.—"It is not at all difficult to 'fix the responsibility,'" writes Senator La Follette, in discussing the Eastland disaster, in the current issue of La Follette's Magazine.

"The Eastland tragedy is the direct outcome of loose inspection laws and a grossly inadequate and incompetent inspection service for the control of passenger steamers, especially those in the Great Lakes service. Steamboat managers are eager to get permission to carry the largest possible number of passengers each trip for they depend upon profits. The existing law empowers the board of supervising inspectors to make the rules in each case and to limit the number of passengers. Here is the plainest case where the human greed conspired with governmental complaisance.

"And let this be emphasized: If the seamen's law had been in effect July 24 the Eastland catastrophe would, in all human probability, not have happened."

OFFICIALS INDICTED.

Chicago, Aug. 21.—Four officials of the company that owned the steamer Eastland, together with the steamer's captain and engineer, have been indicted by a state grand jury on charges of manslaughter and criminal carelessness. The officials are charged, substantially, as follows:

That they knew the Eastland was unseaworthy and lost in stability.

That they permitted 2,500 passengers aboard the vessel, which is more than its carrying capacity.

That they were negligent in hiring an incompetent engineer, and that because of his lack of skill he was unable to control the boat properly.

That there was not sufficient help on the ship to operate the vessel properly.

That the ballast tanks were allowed to be out of repair and not filled with water.

It is stated that the grand jury is considering other indictments.

PRINTERS SELECT BALTIMORE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 21.—Baltimore was selected as the 1916 meeting place by the International Typographical union convention, in session all last week. A proposal to increase salaries of the president and secretary-treasurer was non-concurred in. The plan to make the secretary of unions of less than 100 members a delegate to convention representative by virtue of his office was defeated. Amendment to the priority and six-day laws were ordered submitted to referendum. The convention unanimously voted to strike out the word "female" wherever it appears in the constitution and in the bylaws of the organization and substitute the word "woman."

MISSOURI UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Moberly, Mo., Aug. 21.—The annual convention of the Missouri State Federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning Monday, September 20. It is expected that several delegates will be present from the farmers' organizations, from the state institutions of Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Arkansas and from the Women's Trade Union league.

OPPOSE LEASE SYSTEM.

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 21.—The Farmers' Educational Co-Operative Union of Alabama convention unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the abolishment of the convict lease system and the placing of these convicts upon the public roads. This question is now being considered by the state legislature.

FARMERS VOTE TO AFFILIATE.

Great Falls, Mont., Aug. 21.—The Farmers' Society of Equity, which met in this city, voted to affiliate with the Montana state federation of labor.

Standard Oil Pays Less Than Living Wage; U. S. Investigators Report Upon

HOW STANDARD OIL "ADJUSTS" WAGES

"The Standard Oil company of New Jersey, although conducting an enormously profitable enterprise, pays wages too low to maintain a family on a comfortable, healthy basis."

The above is one of the numerous indictments of Standard Oil methods found in the report on the recent strike at Bayonne, N. J., by investigators of the commission on federal relations.

The report says:

"The company is the most important of the Standard Oil group, and this group is the principal contributor to the wealth, prestige and power of the largest estate in the country, if not in the world, that of John D. Rockefeller, sr., and his immediate family.

"Facts regarding the company's labor policies must, therefore, be regarded as of special significance, because of the tremendous power wielded by the group of which it controls this industry, and because of their announced intention to enter the field of industrial relations with a view to widening their influence and activity and propagating what they deem to be the proper theories and principles which should govern the relation between employer and employe.

The investigators say Standard Oil uses this method in setting wage rates:

"It fixes wages not with relation to the earnings of the company, but by taking into consideration the wages paid by other companies in the same locality, and then fixing the wages as low as or lower than the highest paid in that locality.

"In Bayonne it paid common laborers less than those of two companies whose plants adjoin its refineries.

This is in direct contradiction to the claims of the company in a statement issued at 26 Broadway that it always has paid the prevailing wage or better. The statement of the general manager of the company that the interests of other companies in the same locality are considered in the fixing of wages constitutes, in effect, an admission that the company combines with the poorest and least generous employers to its profit.

"The men are made to understand," the report continued, "that they must see to outside assistance in their dealings with the management, and that any independence or any hint of compulsion will be vigorously resented.

"The company has instituted no machinery by which real or fancied grievances may be peacefully and promptly adjusted. The officials say that any man has access to the general superintendent, but the employes allege that they would be discharged before reaching the office.

"General Manager Gifford is not a believer in child labor legislation, and on the other hand, thinks the children should be allowed to go to work earlier. He and Mr. Hennessy apparently have little respect for the foreign-born men whose labor produces the company's earnings and are proponents of the extremely individualistic and reactionary industrial theories discarded by enlightened employers and by economists many years ago.

"Two days after the men returned to work the Standard Oil company announced increases in wages. These increases fell far short of those demanded by the strikers and the rates now being paid are still below those paid by one of the other companies adjoining the Standard Oil company's plant, if the latter's rates can be taken as a basis of comparison.

"The outcome of the strike constitutes a distinct victory for the Standard Oil company as to its vital policies; that is, its refusal to recognize the permit collective action or to make any concession to the men except of its own free will and accord."

The report gives a brief history of the strike in July and of the disorders which accompanied it. It accuses the company of refusing all assistance in the Bayonne police to keep strikers off the streets and asserts that the attempt to do so caused the first riot on July 20.

CARPENTERS' FINE RECORD

Indianapolis, Aug. 21.—Thirty-four years ago this month the organization of Carpenters and Joiners was organized in the convention consisting of representatives of 36 local unions with a membership of 2,042. Today the organization consists of 1,853 local unions, 141 district councils and 18 state and provincial bodies with a total membership of 450,000, and owns its own office building of three stories and a basement, in which is located a printing plant.

In the current issue of The Carpenter, official magazine of the brotherhood, much space is given to the local trials and the wonderful advancements made in the organization.

In a resume entitled "Looking Backward," General Secretary Frank Duffy says:

"The average rate of wages per day in 1881 was $2.60 and the average working day was ten hours; the total of wages per day now is $4.00 and the average work-day, eight hours, with the shop still closed in many of the large cities under our jurisdiction. In 1881 the working hours of labor in this manner gave employment to thousands of men who would have been turned out of employment, hours of working from sunrise to sunset was still in vogue.

"From 1881 to 1914 insurance department alone we paid out in the last thirty-four years the sum of $4,051,709.91 in death and disability benefits, while our local unions paid out $2,600,000 in sick benefits.

"Strikes and lockouts cost us over $1,300,000 and organizing work a little over $2,000,000.

"To other labor organizations in distress we donated $356,607.26. This shows what we have done when we band ourselves together for their own good.

"We have done much good in our time; we have relieved our members of the burden of sickness and death, dead, and last, but not least, we have taken care of the widows and orphans left behind. We can say ours has been a great work, a worthy work, a noble work and the result of our record. It will compare favorably with that of any other organization and surpass many."

AGAINST IMMIGRATION.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—At the international immigration congress, trade unionists declared present methods of inducing immigration to this country a failure. Walter Allen, of the Labor Clarion said: "The American worker is not going to permit his liberties to be filched from him by holding out false hopes to the oppressed of other lands merely to satisfy the greed-crazed clementsof our social structure." Robert N. Lynch, manager of the local chamber of commerce, was also alarmed at the prospects of large numbers of immigrants coming to the Pacific coast because of the Panama canal. Mr. Lynch said the opportunities are not here. He seemed to overlook the fact that steamship companies can be and are corporations interested in flooding the labor market pay no attention to "opportunities" for immigrants.

FIREMEN WON'T AMALGAMATE

Cincinnati, Aug. 21.—By a unanimous vote the convention of International Association of Machinists refused to amalgamate with the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers. Delegates from Winnipeg addressed the firemen on the question of closer affiliation with the steam engineers. The firemen referred the matter to their convention, and in the bylaws of the organization substitute the word "woman."

B. & O. BUYS EQUIPMENT.

Baltimore, Aug. 21. — The Baltimore and Ohio railroad announced that it has placed contracts with several steel mills for 17,000 tons of steel rails and with car manufacturers for 3,000 steel hopper car bodies for immediate delivery. The material will cost about $1,000,000. Besides the above-mentioned contracts placed last month for 2,000 steel hopper cars and 500 passenger cars costing approximately $2,000,000.

SMELTER TRUST PAYS DAMAGES.

Denver, Aug. 21.—The American Smelting and Refining company has paid the federal government $213,984 as damages and rent for the use of 3,476 acres of southern Colorado coal lands valued at $1,000,000. The government recovered that the land has been secured through the use of "dummy" entrymen.

LABOR EXPLOITATION SCHEME IS BLOCKED

San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 21.—An attempt to exploit labor and Mexicanize West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio mines has been blocked by state officials and federal immigration inspectors. These officials notified a labor agency in this city that was advertising for 15,000 Mexicans to work in various eastern mines, that it must discontinue or lose Texas labor agency employment agencies. A refusal to qualify followed by arrests. One of the promoters committed suicide. Several hundred Mexicans lost $2 each. The offer attracted German sailors who have been interned since last spring, but these workers were suspicious and they conferred with trade unionists.

The contract Mexicans were called upon to sign provided that each alien should work for the company "that adapts me to the occupation until my transportation and all other expenses connected therewith are paid in full."

It was further agreed that the alien should pay the labor agency 5 per cent of his earnings for a period of 12 months. The money so deducted from the envelope of the worker and forwarded every month to the agent.

Under the scheme laborers resulted in several hundred Mexicans being left destitute in this city.

UNIONISM BENEFITS ALL.

Everett, Wash., Aug. 21.—After referring to the reforms inaugurated by the trade union movement, in a "labor forward" address in this city, Secretary Taylor of the state federation of labor, said:

"The indirect results of these beneficient measures have left their impress on the character of the workers, elevated his standard of living, enobled his ideals, thus leading to a general uplifting of the workers' environment, both in the home and in the shops and mills."

WILL INTERPRET AWARD.

Chicago, Aug. 21.—Representatives of the federal department of labor have arranged for the reassembling of the arbitration board which will submit a number of questions the two parties to the controversy may be practically when they undertook to apply the recent award on the various railroads.

TEXAS CARPENTERS CONFER.

Wichita Falls, Tex., Aug. 21.—The state council of carpenters held a four-days' conference in this city. Encouraging reports were made by practically all delegates. Fort Arthur was selected as the next convention city.

COMPENSATION ACT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

Sacramento, Cal., Aug. 21.—The state supreme court has upheld the workmen's compensation act.

The industrial accident board held a private indemnity company liable for damages to a railroad worker and the company appealed on the ground that the law deprived the employer of liberty without due process of law and an equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the United States constitution, and that the act is invalid because it exempts agricultural and domestic workers.

The court, by a vote of a majority opinion, which holds that the law is not a violation of the federal constitution, and that the enactment substitutes a new system of rights and obligations for the common law rules governing the liability of employers for injuries to their workmen. Justice Sloss declared this was perfectly within the power, though "the change thus made is radical; not to say revolutionary."

Justice Shaw and two colleagues accepted the law only because of the insurance provision of the act. If this were not included, they intimated they might hold different views.

Justice Henshaw was alone in his opposition to the act.

COAL MEN WANT COSSACKS

Denver, Col., Aug. 21.—Coal operators and their attorneys in this state are now engaged in a campaign of publication on the benefits of a state constabulary. Advocates of the Cossack system are alive to the fact that they have discredited the state militia and the value of our national defense in having a hard time living down its connection with events in southern Colorado.

The Rocky Mountain News, published in Denver, says that the leaders in the Cossack campaign, and the following editorial plea is a sample of the "educational" moves that are being cautiously made:

"Pennsylvania is the founder of a state constabulary. It has not, although it met with much opposition at the beginning, it is now accepted both by the people and by the courts. The offer attracted German sailors who have been interned since last spring, but these workers were suspicious and they conferred with trade unionists.

"The constabulary can be called upon to quell disturbances of any kind without interfering with the militia. It is composed of men who are selected for a purpose, without prejudice or partisanship. Their duty is to keep the peace. They take no part in the controversies that have arisen and remain impartial.

"The experiment for state to establish a constabulary that would take the place of militia in quelling strikes is becoming more of a subject for discussion. The militia is dependent upon the war department and the federal treasury for a portion of its support. Whenever the governor of a state militia has to do police duty and intervene between strikers in an industrial-political controversy, his standing as an arm of national defense is jeopardized. Governors are gladly serve in a national guard that would hesitate to join an organization that is to be called out, any day to quell a local disturbance or take issue with a labor strike."

PULLMAN HEADS REBUKED.

Chicago, Aug. 21.—The Pullman company has given no encouragement to act on the matter of granting wage increases to its sleeping car porters and conductors, which Commissioner Walsh of the commission on industrial relations characterized as an affront at the commission, because of its recent investigation of the Pullman company.

Chairman Walsh said:

"The company's failure to act, after the assurance of Mr. Lincoln, chairman of the company's board of directors, that he would bring up the matter at the next meeting of the board, and after the admission that part of the company's huge profits were derived by the employment of its faithful employes, can be explained only by the indifference and disregard of its faithful employes to the well-being of the faithful employes who man its cars. To refuse justice to these employes is a policy that needs no comment."

AGAINST GRAND JURY SYSTEM.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—The convention of the International Longshoremen's association, Pacific district, denounced the grand jury system as "a relic of medieval times" and recommended legislation to question the partiality of its members.

Resolutions adopted by the convention declare that the powers of wealth, through their vast property rights, have influenced juries and the courts to such an extent that it has become "a new form of the inquisition."

NEW CARPENTERS' UNIONS.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 21.—Secretary Duffy, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, announces that the following locals were organized last month: Fulton, Ky.; Atchison, Kans.; Pembroke, Pa.; Atchison, Kans.; Prince George, Canada; Enid, Okla.; Baltimore, Md. (colored); Portland, Me.; Hot Springs, Ark.; Honolulu, H. J. (ship carpenters).

TO AMEND REFERENDUM LAW.

Little Rock, Ark., Aug. 21.—The Arkansas state federation of labor has initiated a petition for amendments to the present initiative and referendum law, which has been weakened by a state supreme court ruling that the legislature may attach the word "temporary" to any legislation, thereby preventing its reference to the people.

DANGERS IN INDUSTRY.

Altoona, Pa., Aug. 21.—Seven Pennsylvania railroad employes were killed near Mount Union, in the early morning, last week, when a passenger train, rushing at a high rate of speed through a misty fog, crashed into them. The engineer was seriously injured.

FEDERAL INSPECTION SERVICE IS BLAMED

Chicago, Aug. 21.—The federal steamboat inspection service, as now conducted, is a fraud, declares Secretary-Treasurer Olander of the Illinois state federation of labor, in that organization's weekly publication.

The unionist makes this statement in an article on the Eastland disaster, and insists that the state's fourth and recommendation that the inspection service be changed supports his contention. He says, in part:

"The full responsibility of the United States steamboat inspection service for the conditions which made the disaster possible is glaringly apparent from it is made clear that under the law they are charged with the duty of correcting the very faults mentioned in every one of the five charges in the indictment against the owners of the vessel. It was the duty under the law of the United States inspectors to see that the Eastland was seaworthy in every respect. It was their duty to limit the number of passengers that the vessel might carry. It was their duty to refuse to let her carry 2,500 people. It was their duty under the law to see that the officers were competent, because it was they who issued the license to the engineer. It was their duty under the law to designate the number of men required to safely handle the ship. It was their duty to see that the proper precautions were made. That is what the steamboat inspection service was intended for, and it is made clear that under the law as in many other cases, the officials of the service failed utterly. As it is now organized, the steamboat inspection service is a farce—a fraud on the people.

"The grand jury also recommended that the inspection service be transferred from the department of commerce and placed under the control and direction of the navy department with headquarters in this city. This latter recommendation is practically a request that the inspection service of every port in the United States and to replace them with naval officers. It is now certain that the guilty will be taken care of by investigation of the inspection service."

IMPORTANT STRIKE SETTLED.

Washington, Aug. 21.—The strike of shopmen employed by the Kansas City Terminal company was one of the most important cases handled by the federal department of labor is the report of William Blackman, commissioner of conciliation, representing the department.

The strike was caused by the company endeavoring to change the rules and a committee which asked the management to have the working rules agreed to by nine railroads. With the assistance of Commissioner Blackman it was agreed that the men should be discharged men and the strikers returned to work, and within sixty days the company and the organized employes' representatives of the employes will undertake to adopt a set of shop rules, governing hours of labor, rates of service, wages, rates, etc., which can be agreed upon. Whether the importance of this strike is indicated by the federal commissioner's statement that the terminal lines cares twelve railroads running into the city and if the controversy were not adjusted 10,000 men would be affected, as well as 600 workers, followed by all the evils of a general strike.

PEOPLE SHOULD CONTROL.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—The people should control labor exchanges, declared Secretary of Labor Wilson in a speech here. He urged the establishment of labor exchanges, which included federal, state, and municipal officials.

The conclusion official said:

"The need for labor exchanges has been clearly demonstrated. Private labor exchanges are unsatisfactory because there was a need for clearing-houses for labor. There never would have been a need for municipal labor exchanges had it not been for the fact that the private exchanges had been abused.

"The suspicion which exists on the part of labor organizations is due to the fact that the management of private labor exchanges have fleeced the workingmen and furnished strikebreakers, wageworkers and unemployed workers to concerns. It is within the power of the people to control municipal labor exchanges, and thus controlled they can never be used for any other purposes than those for which they are designed."

LIFE IS MORE THAN TO LABOR.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—In urging consideration of an educational system that means more than "modest, self-effacing working people," the Commercial West says:

"Man lives as much to play, to think, to enjoy and talk with others, to consider the wise ways of the little fishes and the birds, as he does to loaf, as he does to work. It is the world is to be increasingly a great factory, and men are to be but solely for the uses of the factory, we had better pray for another ice age to wipe us out and give creation a new start."

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Holyoke, Mass., Aug. 21.—Street car employes in this city have returned to work after a three days' strike, caused by the company's refusal to accept a readjustment of working schedules. The strike ended when the men agreed to the arbitration plan, that provides for the appointment of a third member of the board by Governor Walsh.

SEAMEN IN CONVENTION.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—The recently enacted seamen's law was given much attention at the convention of the International Seamen's union, held in this city. Delegates and officers reported that organization is in a flourishing condition.

UNIONIZE OLD FIRM.

Nanaimo, B. C., Aug. 21.—The Hodgson Sash & Door company has reached an agreement with the Cigar Makers' union. This firm has been doing business for nearly fifty years.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE ENDS.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 21.—The teamsters' strike has been settled. Several hundred men are affected. There was much feeling developed because of the employers' refusal to increase wages and improve working conditions.

DELAWARE MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Wilmington, Del., Aug. 21.—About 250 machinists went on strike last week for an eight-hour day and an increase in wages. Recognition of the union is also demanded.

JUDGE HILLYER BARRED FROM MINERS' TRIALS

Colorado Supreme Court Destroys Mine Operators' Plans.

COMPANY JUDGE DISCREDITED

Workers' Plea Not to Be Tried by Ex-Coal Attorney Is Successful Stay of Proceedings Ordered in Lawson's Case.

Denver, Aug. 21.—The Colorado state supreme court has ordered Judge Hillyer not to preside at pending trials of miners, and the coal operators' plan of having their own judge dispense company justice has been dealt a blow from which it will hardly recover. The effect of this decision is, shorn of the whisperings for "peace" and pleasant phrases that many of the indictments should be quashed, as "the purpose of law and order has been accomplished." Advocates of this plan, it is said, believe agitation will then cease. Another element that enters into this theory is the fact that no Colorado jury can be found who will resort to Hillyer methods.

Scores of unionists are under indictment and were to be tried in Judge Hillyer's court for various offenses, charged by coal company officials, gunmen and others. Attorneys for the accused struck a master blow by appealing to the supreme court for an order debarring Judge Hillyer from presiding at the trials, and on the ground that justice at the hands of this ex-coal company attorney would be impossible.

The supreme court's action will place Lawson's prosecutors in an unenviable position when this worker's appeal is considered by Colorado's highest tribunal, for it can be assumed that the supreme court will recall its decision when Lawson's attorneys repeat the charge that Judge Hillyer's former connections precluded the possibility of giving their client a fair trial.

Denver, Aug. 21. — The Colorado state supreme court granted a supersedeas in the case of John R. Lawson at the same time Judge Hillyer was denied the request of official stay that the Las Animas county jail be removed to the penitentiary, until the supreme court can decide on the appeal of Lawson's case. The court will later pass on Lawson's plea to be admitted to bail bond.

FIFTY-HOUR WEEK ADOPTED.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 21.—The Manufacturers' Association, at its meeting rallies that a reduction of working hours from fifty-four to fifty will be a statement recommending the adoption of the fifty-hour week in all Bridgeport factories. The Bullard Machine Brothers company, which employs several thousand mechanics, has announced that the fifty-hour week will hereafter be in force in that factory. The assertion is made that the shorter hours schedule is for business development and all tendencies show that the fifty-hour week will be adopted. It is also claimed that employers can accomplish as much under the fifty-hour schedule as is now done under the fifty-four-hour rule.

The manufacturers' decision is the result of an eight-hour day agitation that has been vigorously conducted by Bridgeport unionists during the past few weeks and includes those firms that have not accepted the straight eight-hour day.

Bridgeport, Conn., Aug. 21.—About 100 machinists are on strike at the Bullard plant for a nine hour minimum. This is the only Bridgeport concern in the present time that has a controversy with its machinist employes.

WOMEN'S MINIMUM WAGE.

Boston, Aug. 21.—The state minimum wage commission has ordered that women store clerks in this state who have been employed one year or more shall receive a wage not lower than $8.58 per week. Those of 18 and who have 52 years's experience shall be paid not less than $7. Girls between 17 and 18 years of age must receive $6 a week and those under 17 years not less than $5. The decision is mandatory as the law is based on the theory of moral suasion.

POLICEMAN KILLED STRIKER.

Jersey City, N. J., Aug. 21.—A coroner's jury has voted to hold Police Inspector Cady, of Bayonne, responsible for the death of an 18-year-old boy who was shot during the recent strike of Bayonne oil workers. Physicians testified that the bullet entered the back of the boy's head and pierced the brain. Several Bayonne policemen testified that inspector Cady fired the shot, thereby resulting in the death of two workers.

INCREASE BENEFITS.

Detroit, Aug. 21.—The Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance convention increased death benefits from $200 to $250. President Hynes, Secretary-Treasurer Bates and Vice-President Boston was chosen as the next convention city. The period between conventions was extended from two to three years.

TEXTILE WORKERS ACTIVE.

Greenville, S. C., Aug. 21.—Textile workers in this section are becoming interested in the trade union movement. In two years Anderson's textile workers have increased the membership of 500. It is predicted that with the spread of the movement the union will increase its membership to 1,500.

STRIKEBREAKERS FINED.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 21.—Two strikebreakers employed by the Ross, Barnes & Pales Machine and Iron company were fined $50 each for carrying concealed weapons without permits.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—Officers of the California state federation of labor have issued a call for the annual convention of labor, to be held at Santa Rosa, beginning Monday, October 4.